

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
HUMAN SERVICES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 13, 2008

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Carl Harris-Morgan, Town of Gilbert,  
Chairperson  
+Bob Baratko, City of Surprise  
Kathy Berzins, City of Tempe  
+Paige Garrett, Quality of Life Community  
Services, Inc  
\*Joyce Gross, Town of Buckeye  
Tim Cole for Jeffery Jamison, City of Phoenix  
Deanna Jonovich, City of Phoenix  
C.J. O'Conner for Jim Knaut, Area Agency on  
Aging  
Frances Delgado for Margarita Leyvas,  
Maricopa County  
Joyce Lopez-Powell, Valley of the Sun United  
Way  
Steven MacFarlane, City of Phoenix  
Doris Marshall, City of Phoenix  
Jayson Matthews, Tempe Community Council  
+Joy McClain, City of Tolleson  
Kyle Moore, DES/ACYF

Sylvia Sheffield, City of Avondale, Vice  
Chair  
Carol Sherer, DES/DDD  
Linda Dillard for Connie Stepnitz,  
City of Goodyear  
\*Patrick Tyrrell, City of Chandler

OTHERS PRESENT

Shonna Tarboro, Southwest Fair Housing  
Partnership  
Wendy Sabatini, First Things First

+Those members present by  
audio/videoconferencing.  
\*Those members neither present nor  
represented by proxy.

1. Open Meeting for Discussion

Chair Harris-Morgan, Town of Gilbert, welcomed everyone to the meeting at 1:02 p.m. and introductions ensued.

2. Call to the Audience

There were no comments.

3. Approval of February 14, 2008 HSCT Meeting Minutes

Chair Harris-Morgan called for a motion to approve the February 14, 2008 meeting minutes. Carol Sherer, DES, made a motion to approve the minutes. Deanna Jonovich, City of Phoenix, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Legislative Update

Chair Harris-Morgan introduced Nathan Pryor, MAG Senior Policy Planner, to offered an update on human services related legislative activity at the state and

federal levels, as well as an update on check cashing stores as requested by the Committee.

Mr. Pryor said the legislative session is moving forward. The biggest issue is the budget. He referred the committee to the handout. SB 1239 on deferred presentment transactions, or pay day loans, moved out of the consent agenda despite an objection. This legislation will force some new expectations for businesses to provide annual data about their number and terms of loans. The sunset law would be extended to allow for the data to be collected. SB 1492 and HB 2148 also address the pay day loan issue. SB 1492 would have removed any sunset deadlines but this bill has not been heard. He said HB 2148 will likely not be heard this session either.

Mr. Pryor continued that SB 1386, proposed legislation changing the definition of domestic violence, has been held. HB 2374 and HB 2545, also addressing domestic violence, have not moved forward either.

In regard to the budget, SB 1304 and HB 2859 are emergency measures to reduce or eliminate contributions to Arizona Long-Term Care System and general assistance respectively. Both bills did pass appropriations but have not yet been heard. This is similar to the measure that was vetoed by the Governor earlier this week. There were five or six bills similar to these two and they probably will not move until the budget has been addressed more fully.

Chair Harris-Morgan asked Mr. Pryor if SB 1239 is sponsored by people who are interested in regulating or supporting the industry. Mr. Pryor said the bill strives for middle ground to collect data about the industry. Doris Marshall, City of Phoenix, asked about the bill addressing domestic violence. Mr. Pryor said the bill was held last year as well. He said he would look into why the bill was not moving forward. There were no other questions. Chair Harris-Morgan thanked him for his presentation.

5. Revision to Social Services Block Grant Allocation Recommendations

Chair Harris-Morgan stated the Committee had received a request to amend the recommendation for the Social Services Block Grant allocations. He introduced Amy St. Peter, MAG, who provided an explanation on the process. Ms. St. Peter stated the City of Phoenix has requested \$55,693 be moved from the pregnant/parenting youth category, number 28 in the Adults, Families and Children target group, to the basic needs category, number five, in the same target group. She said the request is made because the City of Phoenix needs to eliminate the program serving pregnant youth that receives this funding. This will leave \$38,283 in the pregnant/parenting youth category. She asked the Committee for any questions.

Jayson Matthews, Tempe Community Council, asked if the programs that would receive the moved funding were stable. Deanna Jonovich, City of Phoenix, confirmed the program that would receive the funding was stable and could actually serve some of the clients formerly receiving case management through the program being

eliminated. There were no other questions. Ms. Marshall moved to recommend approval of amending the Social Services Block Grant recommendations to move \$55,693 from the pregnant/parenting youth category, number 28 in the Adults, Families and Children target group, to the basic needs category in the same target group. Mr. Matthews seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Human Services Survey

Ms. St. Peter, MAG, presented the first draft of the 2008 Regional Human Services Survey. She noted this activity is included in the Unified Planning Work Program for FY08. She thanked the committee for their suggestions at the last meeting. She thanked Steve MacFarlane and Paige Garrett for volunteering to assist with the survey. She said that there was not time to get their input before the meeting but that she looked forward to their comments at the meeting.

Ms. St. Peter said the focus of the survey changed since the last survey conducted in 2006. The 2006 survey asked respondents to indicate which human services issues presented the most concern for them. This survey asks questions more directly relating to the three funding areas MAG is involved with, as well as questions about domestic violence since this is an important focus for MAG as well.

Ms. St. Peter explained the three funding sources that include MAG involvement are the Social Services Block Grant locally planned dollars, Section 5310 funding for agencies that transport older adults and persons with disabilities, and homeless assistance funding through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The target audiences for this survey are members of MAG Human Services Committees, MAG member agencies and community partners. The results from the survey will be used to direct MAG's activity in these three funding areas and for future project development. After the survey has been approved, it will be formatted. Ms. St. Peter opened the floor for questions and comments.

Steve MacFarlane, City of Phoenix, offered suggestions. He recommended placing parentheses around the number one so people would know they could rank all the answers. Respondents should be able to rank order the answers in question number two in the homeless section. Carol Sherer, DES, asked if the current percentages of SSBG funding would be included in the survey. Ms. St. Peter affirmed they would be. Mr. MacFarlane said the percentages should add up to 100 on the form so people submit appropriate numbers.

Mr. Matthews recommended adding more open-ended questions to Section B and asking people to explain their choice for areas of focus in this section. Ms. Jonovich supported this idea and recommended adding more open-ended questions to all the sections.

Ms. St. Peter thanked the committee for their feedback and said the revisions would be made. She offered to present the survey for a vote at the next meeting if the committee wanted to see the revised survey before it was distributed. Ms. Jonovich said she was satisfied that the changes would be made. Mr. Matthews agreed and moved to approve the survey with the changes proposed by the committee. Kathy Berzins, City of Tempe, seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Housing and Transportation Human Services Coordination Conference

Chair Harris-Morgan introduced Maureen DeCindis, MAG, who presented information about the upcoming MAG conference. She encouraged members to attend and to help promote the event. Ms. DeCindis asked if everyone received the registration materials by email. The committee confirmed they had. She said 120 people have registered for the event and up to 250 people can attend. Ms. DeCindis said the conference has been featured in the newspaper. The goal is to have people dialogue about future changes and strategies to coordinate housing and transportation more effectively. She noted the speakers list has changed a bit and added that it will be a dynamic conference. She said she hopes to see everyone there.

C.J. O'Conner, Area Agency on Aging, asked if there would be workshop descriptions distributed before the event. Ms. St. Peter said there would not be, but people could call and ask for more detail about any of the workshops. Ms. St. Peter offered to answer questions about the workshops at the meeting as well. Joyce Lopez Powell, Valley of the Sun United Way, asked about universal housing design. Ms. DeCindis said the concept is to design homes so that the house is accessible for everyone. This includes making modifications like larger doorways.

8. Homeless Street Count Report

Chair Harris-Morgan introduced Brande Mead, MAG, who presented information about the process for the 2008 Homeless Street Count for the region and preliminary results. Ms Mead thanked the committee for the opportunity to share the results with the committee. She referred the committee to the handout of preliminary results by city and demographic data. She said she worked with coordinators in all 25 municipalities. She thanked everyone who participated in the planning and implementation.

Ms. Mead said 2,426 homeless men, women and children were found living on streets in the region. This does not include the homeless shelters or those living doubled-up with others. There was an overall decrease of 15 percent in the region. She said 71 percent were in the City of Phoenix. Phoenix did have a decrease of 23 percent. Without Phoenix, there was a slight increase of 13 percent in the rest of the county. Ms. Mead said while she was happy to report a decrease, there are factors that need to be considered. The weather was very bad the few days before the count and encampments had been washed out by the rain. This meant that several people were not counted. Some of the city coordinators improved their process and number of volunteers, so this may partly explain the reason for the increase outside the City of

Phoenix. The street count took place during the NFL Experience, the week before the Superbowl. She said many homeless people will move during times of heavy traffic and may not have been counted as a result.

Ms. Mead reported that the results were confirmed with the street coordinators and intergovernmental representatives. After the Continuum of Care reviews the information, the results will be released via a press release. The shelter count results are nearly complete and will be released soon as well. Mr. Matthews asked what age defined youth on their own. Ms. Mead said people qualified as youth on their own if they were under the age of 18. Ms. Sheffield said the weather definitely affected the street count in Avondale. She asked if decreases of people counted in the street would correlate to any increases in the shelter count. Ms. Mead said they would analyze the information for that relationship. Ms. Lopez-Powell asked if she could receive the information electronically. Ms. Mead said she would send it out by email.

9. First Things First Presentation

This item was taken out of order due to the speaker running late. Chair Harris-Morgan introduced Wendy Sabatini, First Things First Regional Manager, who presented on the development of regional councils within the state to address early childhood development activities and grant opportunities. Ms. Sabatini thanked the committee for the opportunity to speak about this new state agency and their activities. She referred to the fact sheet she handed out to the committee. Proposition 203 raised the tobacco tax to benefit early childhood and health so children would start school prepared. The goals for the program were defined through this legislation.

Ms. Sabatini reported that work groups have been meeting for some time to assess these issues. A 12-member state board is chaired by Nadine Basha. A big part of the initiative is the state of Arizona has many different needs based on geography. To ensure local issues are addressed appropriately, 31 councils are being formed with eight councils here in Maricopa County. She is the manager for all but Phoenix and the southwest areas in the County. Each council will have a full time regional coordinator. She reviewed the managers for each area to familiarize people with them.

The goal is to conduct community outreach and learn from people in the community. She encouraged people to get involved and ask questions. Each regional council will be formed of 11 members from the faith community, parents, educators, business, etc. Ms. Sabatini reported that the councils are filling up with wonderful candidates. She noted a lack of diversity and said they are looking for more candidates to address this concern.

Ms. Sabatini handed out a summary of the councils' responsibilities. The councils will be completing a needs assessment of their region. She asked for the committee members' assistance to provide data. The council will prioritize the issues and issuing requests for proposals and making recommendations for funding. The geographic boundaries are included on the handout. The goal is to get out into the community

and impact early childhood development and prevent problems later in life. There is more potential for change if intervention is provided early. She said she looked forward to working with everyone.

Steve MacFarlane inquired how much funding was available. Ms. Sabatini said \$170 million is available in the state. This amount is based on the tax received from tobacco products sold. They anticipate that the effort to educate people about the hazards of smoking would decrease usage and revenues. They will be prepared when funding does drop off.

Mr. MacFarlane asked who is eligible to apply for this funding. Ms. Sabatini responded that local governments, nonprofit agencies and anyone wanting to address early childhood needs could apply. Mr. MacFarlane asked specifically about Head Start because the City of Phoenix has not had a significant funding increase in this program. As a result, they may need to eliminate some slots. Ms. Sabatini said that Head Start would be a possibility. The councils will decide the priority and this would be within their scope of work. She encouraged all to attend public meetings to voice their support of certain programs or areas of concern.

Ms. Jonovich asked about the timeline for the program. Ms. Sabatini said the needs assessments are due by September 1, 2008. By January 2009, the recommendations for funding will be given. Money will be issued by July 2009. Mr. Harris-Morgan asked if there were any opportunities to be involved with the needs assessment. Ms. Sabatini responded there were and to contact her if anyone was interested. She offered her cell phone number, 602.769.5944, and said she welcome the opportunity to meet with everyone to learn about their thoughts and concerns. She added that there are seven full-time policy specialists on staff to identify best practices.

Ms. Sherer asked about coordination with AZEIP and the DES Division of Developmental Disabilities Early Intervention Programs. Ms. Sabatini said meetings are occurring at the state level to address this issue and coordinate services. They are identifying ways to best collaborate among the state agencies and make efficient use of the tax dollars. She stressed that coordination among government agencies is a priority. Chair Harris-Morgan said the handouts would be emailed to everyone so people attending by audio call could have the documents as well. He thanked Ms. Sabatini for her presentation.

#### 10. Comments from the Committee

Ms. Sherer said she had just attended the Caregiver Rally at the capitol. She reported the event had a great turnout and offered lots of information. The event lasted for three and a half hours. Lifespan, a respite program, had great information available. If people would like information on this program, they can contact the Area Agency on Aging. Ms. Sherer said the program serves people not funded by other programs. Clients include people age 18 and over. The program provides respite for caregivers so people can stay in their homes longer. The program has funding they need to spend between now and the end of the fiscal year.

Bob Baratko, City of Surprise, said the City will have their first Human Services Fair on April 7, 2008. He offered for committee members to have tables with information at the event.

Ms. Lopez Powell said the United Way, in partnership with the United Phoenix Firefighters, is sponsoring a program to install free pool fences in owner-occupied, low-income homes. They are seeking families to participate. She asked the members to please help promote the program and to contact her with any questions. The fences normally cost between \$1,200 and \$1,500. These fences will be installed by a bonded pool fence company. Ms. Lopez-Powell said the program is available throughout the whole county.

Joy McClain, City of Tolleson, announced the City is having an annual golf tournament fundraiser on April 4, 2008. For more information, please call Joy McClain at 623.936.7111.

Chair Harris-Morgan said the economic stimulus program through the IRS is only available to people who have filed their taxes. Agencies are promoting the program to people who don't normally file their tax return to do so in order to benefit from this program. He said families can receive amounts between \$300 to \$600.

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m. **The next Human Services Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 10, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. at the MAG offices, second floor, Cholla Room.**